

Finance and Planning Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 19 June 2024

**Venue: Civic Centre (Council Meeting Room)
13 Mair Street, Benalla**

In accordance with Rule 6.4 of the *Governance Rules 2020* the Committee meeting was lived streamed via the Council's website and an audio recording will be made of the proceedings of the meeting.

Members of the public were encouraged to watch the live broadcast of the meeting at www.benalla.vic.gov.au

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Minutes

Chair Councillor Danny Claridge (Mayor)

Councillors Councillor Peter Davis
Councillor Don Firth
Councillor Bernie Hearn
Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne
Councillor Justin King
Councillor Gail O'Brien

In attendance Dom Testoni Chief Executive Officer
Robert Barber General Manager Corporate
Cathy Fitzpatrick Manager Finance
Tom Arnold Community Development and Recreation Coordinator
Jess Pendergast Governance Coordinator

Opening and Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 5.30pm and recited the following Acknowledgement of Country. *We, the Benalla Rural City Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.*

Apologies

Councillor Bernie Hearn submitted an apology to the meeting.

Cr Davis / Cr Firth:

That the apology be accepted.

Carried

Governance Matters

The Committee Meeting was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Benalla Rural City Council *Governance Rules 2020*.

Recording of Council Meetings

In accordance with the *Governance Rules 2020* clause 6.4 the Committee meeting was audio recorded and made available for public access, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

See item 6.

Confirmation of the previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on the Council website www.benalla.vic.gov.au pending confirmation at this meeting.

Cr Firth / Cr Davis:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 and Wednesday 5 June 2024 be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Carried

Business

1. Proposed 2024/2025 Budget – Consideration of Submissions

The report considered submissions received on the proposed *2024/25 Budget*.

The *2024/25 Budget* will be considered for adoption at the Council meeting on 26 June 2024.

Cr King / Cr Firth:

That the report be noted.

Carried

2. Draft Fair Access Policy – Consideration of Submissions

The report considered submissions received for the draft *Fair Access Policy*.

The *Fair Access Policy* will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2024.

Cr Davis / Cr O'Brien:

That the report be noted.

Carried

3. Proposed Name Change of Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre

The report considered feedback received in relation to the proposed name change for the *Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre*.

It is noted that Margret Jenkins made a submission on the item and addressed the committee.

Cr King / Cr O'Brien:

- 1. That the Council rename *Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre* to *Benalla Seniors and Community Centre*.**
- 2. That Geographic Names Victoria (VICNAMES) be advised of the name change.**

Carried

4. Proposal for a Mobile Phone Tower at Goorambat Recreation Reserve

The report discussed feedback received regarding the proposal to lease land for a Mobile Phone Tower at the Goorambat Recreation Reserve.

Cr Gunaratne / Cr Davis:

That the Finance and Planning Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council, resolve:

- 1. That the Council enter into a lease of land with Amplitel Pty Ltd for a period of 20 years.**
- 2. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute contract documentation.**

Carried

5. Building and Planning Approvals – April 2024

The report detailed planning permit applications and building approvals for April 2024.

Cr Firth / Cr Gunaratne:

That the report be noted.

Carried

It is noted that Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne declared a general conflict of interest in the following item and left the meeting at 5.59pm.

6. 2023/2024 Quick Response Grants Program

The report presented funding applications for 2023/24 Quick Response Grants.

Cr Firth / Cr O'Brien:

That \$500 grants from the 2023/2024 Quick Response Grant program be allocated to Tatong Archery Club, Swanpool & District Community Development Association Inc., Lurg Hall and Reserve Committee of Management and Benalla Migrants Association Inc.

Carried

Councillor Punarji Hewa Gunaratne returned to the meeting at 6.08pm.

7. Urgent Business

No urgent business was submitted to the meeting.

Closure of Meeting

The Committee meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Confirmed this thirty first day of July 2024.

Signed: _____
Cr Danny Claridge (Mayor)